

March 28, 2013

Mayor and Members of Council,

As you are aware, the Beloved Community Center (BCC) recently published a report outlining what it describes as “police corruption, racism and misconduct in our city.” The report, titled “Our Democratic Mission,” outlines 14 alleged incidents of police “misuse and/or abuse of power.”

Today, Chief Miller and I spoke with the *Carolina Peacemaker* and the *Greensboro News & Record* about this report. Both publications were planning to do stories about the report and contacted the City for a response. In particular, I voiced my concern that the BCC report is irresponsible. It makes assumptions about cases and draws conclusions – including that there is a subculture of corruption in the department – which are serious claims with little evidence. We expect to see a story in this weekend’s edition of the *N&R* and anticipate media coverage in advance of the April 4 BCC meeting at the Greensboro Historical Museum. I have attached some talking points to this memo should you receive any inquiries.

Overall, the City’s review of the BCC report found numerous factual errors throughout the document. The report fails to note that all of these cases have been vetted through appropriate legal and/or appeal processes, both inside and outside the police department. No indications of impropriety were discovered in any of those reviews or appeals.

While the City should be concerned with such a publication, the allegation of the systemic problem the BCC described is simply unfounded. This was the case when Carroll Buracker examined the department in 2008 and it has been the case through reviews performed by former City Manager Rashad Young, former Assistant City Manager Michael Speedling, myself and Police Chief Ken Miller.

In fact, in August 2010 (attached), the City provided a detailed summary outlining the lack of evidence to support any allegations of corruption and double standards in the police department. I continue to find that the internal and external investigative and disciplinary processes, in addition to governing law, provide sufficient structure and guidance into how the police department manages complaints of inappropriate criminal and non-criminal behavior by its employees.

As a City Manager, it is important to me that the City and its police department maintain the highest standards of legal, ethical, and professional behavior. We take allegations of police misconduct seriously and we manage the investigative and review processes with commitments to consistency, thoroughness and fairness to all. We do not hesitate to improve systems and processes, or make changes to personnel, to ensure the integrity of the department. Moving forward, we will continue to periodically monitor and revise policies, procedures, and actions to maintain a department that is worthy of everyone’s trust.

Please let me know if you have additional questions or concerns.

Regards,

Denise